

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicants : Akihiro YASUDA et al. Group Art Unit : Not Yet Assigned  
Appl. No. : 10/575,356 Examiner : Not Yet Assigned  
(U.S. National Stage of PCT/JP2004/014648)  
I.A. Filed : April 11, 2006 Confirmation No. : Not Yet Assigned  
For : FIXING APPARATUS

**PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT**

Commissioner for Patents  
U.S. Patent and Trademark Office  
Customer Service Window, Mail Stop AMENDMENT  
Randolph Building  
401 Dulany Street  
Alexandria, VA 22314

Sir:

Prior to the examination of the above-identified patent application, the Examiner is respectfully requested to amend the abstract as follows:

**Amendments to the Abstract** begin on page 2 of this Preliminary Amendment.

**Remarks** begin on page 3 of this Preliminary Amendment.